

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 15, 17, 23, 28, 30 and 31 have been amended, and claims 2, 4, 16, 18 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-15, 17, 19-28, and 30-35 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Advisory Action mailed October 31, 2008, the Examiner maintained his rejection of claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue et al. (US 2001/0048472; hereafter, Inoue) in view of Tanaka et al. (USPN 7,224,480; hereafter, Tanaka). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 4. The remaining independent claims have been similarly amended, with differing scope and breadth. Claims 2, 4, 16, 18, and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

It is respectfully submitted that the method, apparatus, image data processing system and computer readable storage medium of amended independent claims 1, 15, 28 and 31 are clearly implemented in a computer which is connected to an image forming apparatus, e.g., a digital camera. However, the methods of Inoue and Tanaka are executed in the digital camera.

In addition, amended independent claims 1, 15, 28 and 31 disclose detection of a specified compression ratio corresponding to a printing mode selected by a user. That is, a user selects a printing mode and then the compression ratio which corresponds to the printing mode is detected. In contrast, Inoue discloses that the compression ratio is directly selected by a user.

Also, Inoue and Tanaka does not disclose the features of amended independent claim 1, and similarly amended independent claims 15, 28, and 31 that disclose: "wherein the variety of printing modes provide varying settings to account for factors including at least one of a degree of an image quality, a type of a printing paper, a printing color, and a type of image data, wherein the compression ratios corresponding to the variety of printing modes are stored on a recording medium."

Hence, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 15, 28 and 31 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Inoue et al. (US 2001/0048472) in view of Tanaka et al. (USPN 7,224,480), alone or in combination. Since claims 1, 3, 5-15, 17, 19-28, and 30-35 depend from amended independent claims 1, 15, 28 and 31, respectively, claims 1, 3, 5-15, 17, 19-28, and 30-35 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Inoue et al. (US 2001/0048472) in view of Tanaka et al. (USPN 7,224,480), alone or in combination, for at least the reasons

amended independent claims 1, 15, 28 and 31 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over same.

Withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

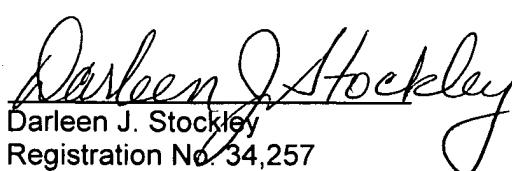
If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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